

# **Maurice Hinchey NEWS**

## **26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK**

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### **ITHACA VA CLINIC SET TO OPEN IN JANUARY**

ITHACA - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the Syracuse VA Medical Center and Cayuga Medical Center have confirmed plans to open a VA Outpatient/Primary Care Clinic in Ithaca to serve the more than 6,300 veterans in Tompkins County. The new clinic will open in January 2003 and will be located at the CMC East Campus on Warren Road. Hinchey has been working aggressively to ensure that this collaborative venture would take place.

"We have overcome many obstacles to get to this point," said Hinchey. "Veterans in Tompkins County have waited a long time for a clinic. They shouldn't have had to wait this long, but I'm glad the wait will be over shortly."

In October 2000, Cayuga Medical Center was awarded a contract to operate clinics at their sites in Cortlandville and Ithaca. While the Cortlandville clinic has been open since January 2001, an unsuccessful appeal of the contract award followed by concerns over the VA's budget delayed the opening of the Ithaca clinic. Hinchey worked closely with CMC throughout the process to overcome these obstacles.

The VA Outpatient Clinic Ithaca will provide primary care, mental health services (radiology and laboratory testing) and dietary consultation. The clinic will be open weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

"We are really thrilled to learn about this decision," added Bonnie Howell. "Cayuga Medical Center is looking forward to expanding service to meet the needs of local veterans. We are very grateful to Congressman Hinchey and the VA for their efforts."

New York State Veteran Service Officer Ed Tenorio added, "Speaking on behalf of the veterans in and around Tompkins County, this is great news. We know a lot of work and effort went into making this clinic possible and we look forward to the opening in January."